

T H E C L E V E L A N D M U S E U M O F A R T

PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE
CLEVELAND, OHIO 44106
TELEPHONE 421-7346

July 5, 1974

FOR RELEASE ON RECEIPT

Two important exhibitions of Chinese art, "The Hans Popper Collection of Oriental Art," and "Chinese Paintings from the Arthur M. Sackler Collection in New York and Princeton," will open jointly at the Cleveland Museum of Art on July 10, 1974.

Installed together in the Museum's special exhibition gallery on the first floor, the exhibitions will survey the development of Chinese art over a 3000 year period.

Each collection concentrates in a different area -- the Popper Collection on bronzes, sculptures, and ceramics dating from the 13th century B.C. to the 14th century A.D., and the Sackler Collection on paintings and calligraphy dating from the 14th to the 20th century A.D.

"Because the two collections are mutually supplementary, we hope, by showing them together, to present a comprehensive picture of the development of Chinese art from the earliest time to the 20th century -- from the decorative to the pictorial, the symbolic to the expressionistic, the collective to the individualistic traditions," says Wai-Kam Ho, Curator of Chinese Art at Cleveland.

"At the same time," Mr. Ho continues, "the juxtaposition will allow viewers, both the general public and students of Chinese art, to appreciate the wide range of problems in connoisseurship. These problems include, for example, the consideration of artists in relation to their tradition, copies and forgeries, orthodoxy and individual taste and expression."

(more)

2-sackler and popper collections

The full title of the Sackler exhibition is "Studies in Connoisseurship: Chinese Paintings from the Arthur M. Sackler Collection in New York and Princeton," and works in the collection have been chosen not only for their artistic quality, but also for their value for research.

For comparative purposes, the collection includes a modern forgery album of six landscape leaves in the style of Tao-chi, the leading "individualist" painter of the early Ch'ing period, as well as copies of two Tao-chi works. In four instances in the collection, copies are paired with originals.

For further comparison, the Cleveland Museum is adding several photographs of calligraphy and painting relating to the work of Tao-chi.

The Sackler Collection includes 41 hanging scrolls, hand scrolls, albums, and fans by 24 leading masters of the Yuan, Ming, and Ch'ing periods. Its unique strength, however, lies in a group of 15 examples of painting and calligraphy by Tao-chi (1641-ca.1710). These 15 works demonstrate the full stylistic range of Tao-chi's landscape, figure, and flower and fruit painting, and of his calligraphy.

Thirty-five of the exhibited works are in the collection of Princeton University; six are on loan from the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.

Arthur M. Sackler, who lives in New York and is a medical doctor by profession, began to collect Chinese art in the 1950s, when many privately owned treasures were becoming available. In 1967 he met Wen C. Fong, Curator of Oriental Art at The Art Museum, Princeton University, and over the next two years, with Professor Fong's guidance, he acquired most of the Chinese paintings in his collection.

European-born Hans Popper and his wife Gretl began collecting seriously in the 1950s also, beginning with contemporary Western paintings, traditional African artifacts, and Far Eastern art objects, becoming increasingly interested in

(more)

3- sackler collection and popper collection

Asian art. Mr. Popper, whose business had permitted extensive travel, retired in 1967, devoting nearly all of his time to the art collection. He died in 1971 in San Francisco, his home since 1939.

The present exhibition is concerned exclusively with the Chinese and Korean sections of his collection. It includes an outstanding assemblage of ceramics -- particularly early Chinese Monochromes and Korean Celadons -- as well as a superb series of ancient Chinese bronzes and another of early Buddhist sculptures, 131 objects in all.

For all its variety, the collection maintains an extraordinarily high level of quality throughout.

The Popper Collection has been organized for circulation by the Asian Art Museum of San Francisco. Following its Cleveland showing it will travel to the Seattle Art Museum.

The Sackler Collection is being circulated by the Art Museum at Princeton University. Following its exhibition in Cleveland, it will go to the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, and to New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Both exhibitions are accompanied by handsomely illustrated scholarly catalogues.

The double show will be on view in Cleveland through September 1. There will be an admission charge of \$1.00 for adults, and \$.50 for students and those under 18. Admission is free to members of the Cleveland Museum.

A series of gallery talks is planned in conjunction with the exhibition. They will be held at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 10 and Sunday, July 14; and on Wednesday, August 21 and Sunday, August 25. Another is scheduled for 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 10.

#

For additional information or photographs, contact Frances Stamper, The Cleveland Museum of Art, 11150 East Boulevard, Cleveland, Ohio 44106. Telephone (216) 421-7340.